

Message Text

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44

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AEC-05 ACDA-05 DLOS-03 SAJ-01 NEA-09

CG-00 DOTE-00 /086 W

----- 066996

R 171002Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8832

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0320

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR PLOS MOPS MY

SUBJ: MALACCA STRAIT TRANSIT OF ENTERPRISE TASK FORCE

1. EMBOFFS WERE INFORMED BY A BRITISH PLANTER AT PORT DICKSON WHO OBSERVED THE PASSAGE OF TASK FORCE 77.7 AT ABOUT 1800 HOURS JANUARY 11 THAT THE ENTERPRISE WAS LAUNCHING AND RECOVERING AIRCRAFT. ANOTHER PLANTER STATED THAT HE OBSERVED HELICOPTERS IN THE AIR AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

2. COMMENT: AS DEPT IS AWARE, MALAYSIANS HAVE AVOIDED ANY PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING TRANSITS OF THE MALACCA STRAIT BY U.S. WARSHIPS AND STORIES ON THE TRANSITS DO NOT APPEAR IN LOCAL PRESS. GOM POSITION CLEARLY IS TO AVOID WRANGLING WITH U.S. OVER ISSUE WHICH MALAYSIANS HAVE SAID MUST BE SETTLED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AT LOS CONFERENCES AND AT SAME TIME AVOID STIMULATING MORE NATIONALISTIC ELEMENTS OF BODY POLITIC HERE. WHILE ADMITTEDLY A REMOTE POSSIBILITY, AN AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT IN THE NARROW PORTION OF THE

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STRAIT WOULD DRAW UNAVOIDABLE PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE TASK FORCE

TRANSIT AND COULD REQUIRE THE GOM TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND WHICH
WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR INTERESTS. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE,
THAT THIS MATTER BE DISCUSSED WITH NAVY AND DEFENSE
AND CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO RESTRICTING FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN
THE MALACCA STRAIT.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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